

“It is the policy of the City of Lincoln that there shall be no discrimination in the acquisition, ownership, possession, or enjoyment of housing throughout the City of Lincoln in accordance with Article I, Section 25 of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska.” (Ord. 10917 §2; October 1, 1973)

On July 15, 1996, The City Council unanimously amended Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The amendments brought the Equal Opportunity Ordinance into substantial equivalency with the Fair Housing Act. The City’s policy makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, familial status, handicap, ancestry or marital status.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO FILE A COMPLAINT IF:

1. You are denied the right of purchase, rental or are otherwise discriminated against when dealing with a person regarding housing;
2. You are discriminated against in the conditions or terms of sale, rental or occupancy of housing;
3. Advertising regarding housing is discriminatory;
4. Blockbusting is used (causing someone to sell or rent by telling him/her that members of a minority group are moving into the area);
5. A bank, savings and loan association, or other businesses related thereto discriminates in housing financing;
6. Membership or participation in brokerage, multiple listing, or real estate service is denied;

And...

You believe the reason for any of these acts is your race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, disability, or marital status.

HOW TO FILE A HOUSING COMPLAINT:

Complaints about discriminatory acts covered by Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code can be filed at the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) at the address shown on the front. A complaint must be filed with LCHR no later than one (1) year after an alleged discriminatory housing practice has occurred. The complaint may be made either in person or by telephone with one of LCHR’s investigators. The complaint will need to be signed by the Complainant.

AFTER A CHARGE IS FILED:

The Commission, not later than ten (10) working days after such filing, shall serve a copy of the complaint upon the Respondent. Unless it is impractical to do so, the Commission will investigate the alleged discriminatory housing practice within one hundred (100) days, or notify the Complainant and Respondent in writing of the reason(s) for not doing so. (Conciliation efforts will continue throughout this process).

At the conclusion of the investigation, the case will be taken before the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights Commissioners for a decision. If the Commission finds reasonable cause, a charge will be issued immediately. The parties affected may then elect to have the matter decided in a public hearing. The election must be made not later than twenty (20) days after service of the charge with notice to the Commission and all parties affected. If an election is not made, the matter will be proceed to public hearing.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO RETALIATE:

It is forbidden by law to punish you for filing a complaint, for acting as a witness, or for assisting the Commission to establish the cause of the complaint.

DEFINITIONS:

“Familial status” means one or more minors living with:

- (1) A parent or another person having legal custody of such individual; or
- (2) The designee of a parent or other person having or seeking legal custody, with the written permission of the parent or other person.

“Handicap” will mean with respect to a person:

- (1) A physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities;
- (2) A record of having such an impairment;
- (3) Being regarded as having such impairment. Handicap shall not include current, illegal use of or addiction to a controlled substance.

For further information, please contact the LCHR office.

The Lincoln Commission on Human Rights is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

City of Lincoln
Commission on Human Rights
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www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/mayor/human



**FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINT
PROCESS**

